

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 09044 291556Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /026 W
-----027999 301110Z /13

R 281015Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0587
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL DOUALA
SECDEF WASHDC
CMC WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 9044

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, XA
SUBJECT: WEST AFRICA TRAINING CRUISE

REF: (A) STATE 243063; (B) MONROVIA 7125

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES POSSIBILITY OF U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT. AS
THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISITS IN 1977 AND IN
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1978 HAD VERY POSITIVE RESULTS IN TERMS OF AMERICAN POLICY OBJEC-
TIVES IN IVORY COAST. IN PLANNING SHIP VISIT THE DEPARTMENT AND
DOD SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT.

2. AS EMBASSY MONROVIA HAS POINTED OUT, A VISIT IN JULY-AUGUST
WOULD OCCUR DURING THE RAINY SEASON WHEN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WOULD
BE VERY DIFFICULT IN ABIDJAN. FURTHERMORE, HIGH-LEVEL IVORIAN

OFFICIALS TAKE THEIR VACATION DURING THAT TIME, AND MANY OF THEM WOULD LIKELY NOT BE IN ABIDJAN. WE THEREFORE SECOND EMBASSY MONROVIA'S SUGGESTION THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ADVANCING VISIT TO MARCH-APRIL TIME FRAME. IF TIMING CANNOT BE CHANGED, HOWEVER, WE WOULD STILL WELCOME THE VISIT SOMETIME DURING JULY-AUGUST.

3. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THE KEY ROLE PLAYED BY THE DATT IN PREPARING SHIP VISITS. SINCE THE DATT IN IVORY COAST IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO TOGO, VISITS TO ABIDJAN AND LOME SHOULD NOT, IF POSSIBLE, BE SCHEDULED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. WE BELIEVE A SHIP VISIT TO ABIDJAN WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY DEMONSTRATION OF AMERICAN MILITARY CAPABILITY AND OF AMERICAN INTEREST IN WEST AFRICA. AS IN 1977 AND 1978, A VISIT WOULD GENERATE FURTHER GOODWILL FOR AND ADMIRATION OF THE U.S. AND WOULD RE-ENFORCE OUR CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IVORIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.
STEARNS

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